

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
January 26, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Hardaway called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Paul Anderson – First Presbyterian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Miano, Mrs. Uzelac and Mrs. Barron were absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

President Hardaway reminded the community that during the month of February, the Town of Merrillville will observe Black History Month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated January 26, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2015, January 1, 2016 & January 12, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Mr. Bushemi provided information for a revision to minutes. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Spires addressed the need for approval of INDOT/Merrillville Project Coordination contract for traffic signal modernization. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac was absent, no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report. Mr. Pettit and Mr. Spires spoke about an open position for a mechanic's assistant in the Public Works Department.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac was absent, no report. Chief Petruch stated that crime overall has been down last year. He anticipates having the statistics available at the next Town Council meeting. He also mentioned the department received two new SUV squad cars.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca stated there will be a meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at Town Hall to discuss the planning for the Fourth of July Parade. Mr. Pettit said there was a change in date for the State of the Region Address. The event is rescheduled for March 2, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel, 6 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit discussed information regarding revised Resolution 16-05 designating an economic revitalization area. He spoke about property located at 8919 Colorado Street and the recommended tax abatement for an expansion at this location.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway said some members of the Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee will be traveling to South Bend on Thursday, January 28, 2016. There they will review the abandoned buildings & blight hearings as an effort to streamline our processes.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-02:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 15-33 of the Parks non-reverting program fees for the year 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 4-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 16-03:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the General Fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 16-04:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing a temporary loan to fulfill monetary requirements. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to add **Res. 16-05** to tonight's meeting agenda. The request was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Spann made a motion to add **Res. 16-06** to tonight's meeting agenda. The request was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 16-05:** A Declaratory Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana designating an economic revitalization area. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 16-06:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing a request for transfer of real property located at rear of 6650 Cleveland Street, Merrillville, Indiana. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

President Hardaway added Mr. Spires to represent the Town on the Fire Territory Board. He also added Renee Connelly to the Elections & Public Relations Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, January 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, February 2, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, February 5, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Council meeting, February 9, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mr. Spann.

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**Richard Hardaway, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**